

**REPORT TO THE  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
2010**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND  
FISCAL YEAR 2009**

**Pursuant to Chapter 321-27, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
Requesting the Department of Health to Submit  
a Report on the Status of the Environmental Health Education Fund**

**PREPARED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**November 2009**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES DURING FY 2009**

The Environmental Health Education Fund supports the training of food establishment personnel and Department of Health staff; as well as educational outreach to food establishments and the general public regarding food safety. This report provides a broad overview of the functional role of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and how its activities relate to the Environmental Health Education Fund to demonstrate the significance of this fund to public health.

This report is submitted under Section 321-27(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which states that the Department “shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the status of the Environmental Health Education Fund, including, but not limited to the amount of monies taken in and expended from the fund, and the sources of receipts and uses of expenditures...”

### **EHSD AND ITS APPROACH TO PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH**

The mission of the EHSD branches is to optimize public health and environmental practices through prevention, assessment, compliance, and education. In performing these functions, the programs within EHSD must be able to prevent or reduce the occurrence of any environmentally-related communicable diseases, illnesses, or injury from contaminated food products, defective medical devices, and vectors.

The programs in EHSD are in the following branches: Sanitation; Food and Drug; Vector Control; and, Indoor and Radiological Health. The Division staff are professionals with capabilities for assessing food contamination and adulteration; inspecting and permitting food establishments; evaluating x-ray devices and other sources of radiation; measuring and testing stationary noise standards; evaluating and monitoring for indoor air quality, asbestos and lead; assessing concerns of unsanitary conditions; responding to and resolving nuisance complaints relating to environmentally-related conditions; and, abating vectors in public areas.

Staff training, public education, information management, and program enhancement are significant division activities, focusing on maximizing program efficiency and effectiveness. The Environmental Health Education Fund allows the Division the appropriate mechanism to provide on-going education for updating and cross-training staff with the technological and organizational changes.

The current EHSD emphasis on education of the public and motivation of operators of regulated facilities to comply with applicable standards and regulations has remained unchanged. Compliance with rules to protect public health, not enforcement per se, is the primary objective of the EHSD programs. The fund is thus a vital component in this long-range plan, which includes education for the industries that the Division regulates. The premise is that both education and public outreach efforts enhance compliance. Wide dissemination of information concerning the technical and scientific basis for the program’s regulatory requirements should contribute to a clearer understanding of the necessity for compliance. Education is always

continuous, particularly with regards to new scientific findings and new technologies. Informed industries and citizens who clearly understand the public health rationale of program functions and laws are fundamental partners in assuring that potential environmental health problems are identified and resolved before actual illness, injury or fatality occurs.

#### EHEF FINANCES

As authorized in Section 321-27(a), HRS, the Department can collect and deposit fees for permits, licenses, inspections, various certificates, variances and investigations and reviews into the fund pursuant to Sections 321-11.5(a)(c) and 321-15, HRS.

For fiscal year 2009 revenues collected and deposited into the fund totaled \$611,143.44. The primary sources of funds were collected statewide from permit fees for food establishments, plan reviews, temporary food applications, and license fees for tattoo artists, registered sanitarians, embalmers, laboratory technologists and laboratory directors.

For fiscal year 2009, expenditures including encumbrances totaled \$617,393.78.

Section 321-27(c) authorizes various expenses. For fiscal year 2009, expenditures totaled \$421,423.51 for personnel costs of two Registered Sanitarian IV's in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program (located on the Islands of Hawaii and Oahu), an Information Technology Specialist (ITS) IV, and an ITS III. The two Registered Sanitarians in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provide educational and training opportunities for food establishments statewide, which are consistent with Section 321-402, HRS. The ITS IV and ITS III provide the Division with technical support for managing the Division's data system and assisting the programs on computer matters.

HRS 321-27(c) specifies that any amount in the excess of \$300,000 on June 30 of each year shall be deposited into the general fund. The following amounts were transferred in past fiscal years:

Fiscal Year	Transfer to General Fund
2009	To be determined
2008	\$157,398.00
2007	\$92,083.08
2006	\$432,027.83

#### FOOD SAFETY CONSULTATION & EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Through fiscal year 2009, the Sanitation Branch conducted educational outreach programs at various elementary schools, "Germ City" Hand Washing Instructions.

In addition, the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provided the following services:

## **Food Handlers Educated**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Food Certification Workshops & Classes:	348
Student Attendance:	3,428
Students Certified:	519

Food certification workshops are 16-hour classes that deal with the principles of food safety and protection as it pertains to HAR 11-12 Food Establishment Sanitation. Successful completion of the workshop and examination results in the issuance of a Hawaii Department of Health Food Handler's Certificate. Food safety classes are customized classes that can range from one hour or more to address specific needs or problems of the participants. No certificates are issued for these classes. Both workshops and classes are open to food establishment personnel and the public.

## **DOH Staff Educated**

The EHEF is also significant for the programs and personnel of the Environmental Health Services Division as a means toward providing improved public health services. In addition to on-going workshops conducted by the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program, the following are highlights of fiscal year 2009:

1. A Food & Drug Inspector V attended the Association of Food & Drug Officials annual conference in Chicago, Illinois.
2. The program manager and a Food & Drug Inspector V participated in the Institute of Food Technologist Annual Meeting & Food Expo, June – July 2, 2008 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
3. The program manager for Sanitation Branch attended the FDA Pacific Regional Retail Food Seminar, August 11 – 15, 2008 in Seattle, Washington.
4. A Sanitarian whose major responsibility is regulating the milk industry in Hawaii attended the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shippers seminar, April 15 – 23, 2009 in Orlando, Florida.
5. Two Food & Drug Branch inspectors and a Sanitarian from the Sanitation Branch attended the Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting & food Expo, June 6 -10, 2009 in Anaheim, California.
6. Two Food Educators & an inspector with the Sanitation Branch participated in the National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, June 19 – 25, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia.

7. The Sanitation Branch conducted a planning meeting November 13 – 14, 2008 in Hilo, Hawaii. This meeting was attended by all Sanitation Branch staff, statewide, and was significant in developing the program's future goals and objectives.
8. Meetings of the Advisory Council on Food Protection Practices were also conducted to discuss food protection and safety issues.
9. Various statewide program and division meetings for managers and staff were also conducted.
10. Investments continued in expanding, upgrading and improving the division's information technology infrastructure and information management system.

In summary, the Environmental Health Education fund was significant in providing for many of these program activities, personnel enhancement opportunities, and technology infrastructure advancements. Prudent utilization of expenditures for FY 2010 will continue to ensure the protection of public health needs through effective and efficient government services.